

8-29-1944

## With the Colors 8-29-1944

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## With the Colors

8/29/44

Forrest Pulliam, formerly of Newton, who is in a Naval hospital in New Caledonia recuperating from injuries received in the Pacific campaign, sends the following citation received by his unit, the Fortieth Construction battalion recently:

"The Fortieth Construction battalion, United States Navy, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on Los Negros island, Admiralty group, on March 2, 1944. This unit landed during a critical situation when the holding of the harbor and airstrip against overwhelming enemy forces was precarious.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the area was still under enemy fire, the battalion immediately on landing assumed its assigned work in clearing and repairing the airstrip. During the progress of their work it became common-place for the operators to be fired upon by snipers, and for the operators to return the fire while continuing their work.

"It soon became evident that cavalry patrols operating against the enemy required fire lanes into the jungle to permit concentration of their automatic weapons against the enemy and the Fortieth Construction battalion had no sooner learned of this need than they turned their bulldozers into the jungle, cut the required fire lanes in superb disregard of the enemy fire and established adequate areas for the control of the enemy.

"During the hours of darkness the members of the battalion were continuously harassed by infiltrating enemy patrols, and for their own preservation operated effectively as combat troops.

"After working all day and fighting all night, small parties of the construction battalion personnel still found time during their few hours of leisure off duty to rout out small bands of the enemy, locate and report pillboxes and otherwise carry the offensive to the enemy's positions.

"The cheerful and uncomplaining attitude of these engineers and the outstanding spirit was noticeable to all associated with the unit and gave great encouragement to the troops in contact.

"In particular, the operation of the bulldozers into the teeth of the enemy's positions was most inspiring and heartening, and created an immediate resurgence of the offensive spirit in weary troops."

Seaman First Cass Virginia A. Graham writes: "It has been a long time since I have written to you all, so since this is Sunday and quite early, I will drop you a few lines. I am getting along fine. I have been feeling fine, but this hot weather is about to get me down. For the last four nights it has been quite cool; our barracks has been really hot.

"Everything is fine at the office but we sure are busy, and we can sure use more help. I can tell you some of my work, just a little of it. I saw some binoculars that has been overseas and were coming back for repair and returning to the owner. I was typing and returning Governor Dwight Green's to him about a month ago. I have a very nice job.

"I suppose you all heard about our birthday. We had a wonderful day. This time last year I was getting ready to come to the service August 26. I reported to New York; lacks one week from being a year. During that year, I have learned and seen a lot that I wouldn't of seen otherwise. I am grateful for all of it.

"I had a four day leave and went to see Norfolk, Virginia, and to Virginia Beach. The beach is wonderful, but the town is terrible. I feel sorry for the Waves that are stationed down there.

"I attended Detroit and Washington base ball games and of course Detroit won.

"If anyone has Juanita Kibler's address I wish you would send it to me. I had better close and study again. I am always glad to hear from you. I had a birthday a week ago. I don't feel much older either; just 21. Had a nice day even if I wasn't home."

*Aug. 29, 1944*

Private Lon Cleaver Jr. of near Newton writes from England: Since arriving in England, I have been so busy that I haven't had time to write many letters until now. However, things are beginning to straighten out now, so I thought I would write and tell you a little bit about what I am doing.

"First of all, I want to add my bit of appreciation for the Press. Up to now, or rather while I was in the states, I must confess, I didn't pay



too much attention to the paper, but now that I am so far away from Newton, even the want ads are interesting. The papers haven't started coming through with much regularity yet, but I read them from front to back several times to make sure I don't miss anything.

"As my address implies, I am connected with a general hospital and we are taking care of casualties now from the European Theatre of Operations. We have a nice hospital, including a theatre and post exchange, and really have a nice set up.

"The weather just now is fine and I have been traveling around some, seeing the country. I spent some time in Oxford, looking at the colleges and historical spots. It's about time to go to bed now, so, I will close."

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Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Roberts of Montrose have received a letter from their son, Corporal Wayne Roberts who is stationed in England. He writes: "I was just thinking a year ago tonight I was at Miami Beach, Florida. A lot has happened since then. I have me a new radio; it's really a good one and we sure enjoy it as it's the only one in our company. It's a small one. I gave \$50.00 for it, so you can see how things sell over here.

"The Eighth Air Force which I am in and which you will read about in our paper is trying to buy enough bonds among ourselves to buy a squadron of planes which will be called the Victory squadron. I purchased \$225 in our first drive. This will be a short week again as I will be going into London three days. My how the time does fly. No word from Bill yet. No doubt he is in France by now.

"I'm sitting here eating cookies. We had a company party last night and had cookies left over. We also had four kegs of beer, but no beer was to be seen this morning. A party really does relax our minds.

"I'm getting the news on my radio and it sure sounds favorable on all fronts. It is August 7 and harvest season has finally come here. Everyone is cutting their grain this week. I am fine myself, just hoping this mess will soon be over. Just say hello to all for me and tell them to write, for a letter is always welcome. We are too busy at the present to do much writing ourselves."

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Miss Ruby A. Whitehurst, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eber F. Whitehurst, of near Wheeler, and a memembr of the Des Moines WAC Recruiting office, was promoted to sergeant, it was announced today.

Sergeant Whitehurst enlisted in March, 1943, and after taking her basic training in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, worked as a member of the motor transportation corps at Fort Meade, South Dakota, and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Upon completion of a recruiting course given at Fort Washington, Maryland, she was assigned to this area and arrived in Des Moines on June 1.

She is a graduate of Illinois State Normal university and taught at Bloomington, before donning the khaki. She has two brothers in service, Lieutenant Don Whitehurst, a flight instructor at the Army air base at Blytheville, Arkansas, and Private First Class Glenn Whitehurst, with an ordnance outfit in Camp Polk, Louisiana.

*Aug. 29, 1944*

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Kinder of Newton received a telegram, Saturday afternoon, from their son, Marion Kinder, seaman first class, aviation ordnance mate, United States Navy, say-

ing he is on his way home from the east coast for a seven day furlough. He will stop in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for a few hours visit with his sister, Mrs. Karl S. Hamilton, who is employed at the General Electric supercharger plant there. He has completed his bombsight schooling and was granted a leave before receiving further orders.

Mr. and Mrs. Kinder have two more sons in the Navy, Lamar Kinder, shipfitter third class, somewhere in the Admiralty islands with the Seabees, and Wayne Kinder, aviation machinist's mate third class, in the aircraft carrier, somewhere in the South Pacific. All three brothers have been in the Navy a year.

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Corporal Jacob D. Flinn writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Flinn of near Winterrowd, from Burma: "I just got in from a two day vacation. I went to one of our detachments and we went fishing yesterday afternoon and got nine dandies. Of course, a big fifty pounder got away as usual. We had pictures taken of us holding them, I hope they turn out good.

"We had a real fish supper last night and plenty left after everybody was full. I stopped in tonight, then rode in with these loys here.

"I haven't got any mail for three days now but yesterday and today I didn't need any to build up my morale. Well I'm sort of tired for no reason at all and it's about time for the lights to go out, so I'll sign off for tonight."

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Private and Mrs. Woodrow Jourdan and his sister, Miss Kate Ethel Jourdan, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Jourdan of Newton. They have been at Camp Croft, South Carolina, where Woodrow has been in training.

Sunday, Seaman Second Class and Mrs. Jesse N. Jourdan and children, Miss Alice Jourdan of Rockford, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Parkison of Charleston, and Howard Jourdan of Evansville were also guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jourdan Sr.

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Seaman Second Class Joe W. Miller has finished his "boot" training at Great Lakes and is now stationed at Ottumwa, Iowa, after having spent a nine day leave with his wife and daughter and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Millard Miller of Yale.

Another son, Earl D. Miller, who recently graduated from the Flexible Gunnery school at Laredo, Texas, has received his aerial silver wings and a promotion in grade. He is stationed at Lincoln, Nebraska, after spending fourteen days with his parents.

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Seaman Second Class W. Frank Turner is home for a ten day leave from his ship to visit his parents and friends. "I guess the old town is just about the same, only quite a few of the old familiar faces are missing," he said. "I will say 'hello' to my two brothers in the Pacific and to all my friends all over the world from Jasper county. I sure miss all of them when I come back on leave like this. Good luck to all."

*Aug. 29, 1944*

Mrs. O. H. Will of St. Louis, a former Jasperite, writes: "Our daughter, Emalene Lucille Will, is a yeoman third class in the Waves. She likes it very much and hopes more women will join the Waves and help win the war.

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Naval Aviation Cadet George Bevis is spending a few days' leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Bevis of Newton before going to Iowa City, Iowa, to attend Naval Pre-

Flight school. He has just completed his preparatory schooling at DePauw university, Greencastle, Indiana.

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Seaman Second Class Jesse N. Jourdan is spending his "boot" leave with his wife and children at Newton. He expects to enter the postal section when he returns to Great Lakes Naval Training Center at Chicago.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bailey received a telephone message Friday that their son, Apprentice Seaman Francis Bailey of Berea college, Berea, Kentucky, had undergone an operation for hernia at the Berea hospital.

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Harry "Stormy" Parr, seaman second class, is now at Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Virginia. He has been on the Security watch at Great Lakes.

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Seaman Second Class Ross J Grove,

son of Mr. and Mrs. Olen J. Grove of West Liberty, is attending Sound school at Key West, Florida.

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Major Medfred S. Riley is now in or near Paris with an American field hospital.